Bangladesh 8th worst-hit country by natural disasters

Says IFRC's World Disasters Report-2018

Trends and IFRC Insights. Globally, 3,731 natural disasters occurred in the last 10 years, affecting an estimated 2 billion people and damaging property worth $1.65 billion, according to the report which used "Emergency Events Database" by Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels.

The largest proportion (40.6 per cent) of the total disasters took place in Asia, which also has by far the largest share of affected people (79.8 per cent) and the largest share of estimated damages (45.4 per cent), it adds.

While the data shows fewer disasters and people affected over the last decade than the previous one (9 percent less incidents and 29 percent less people affected), estimated damages more than doubled in the region—from $326.6 billion to $752.2 billion.

The report says China, USA, Philippines, India and Indonesia were the five countries most frequently hit by natural disasters in last ten years.

China and India alone accounted for 62.4 percent (1.2 billion) of the 2 billion affected people since 2008. Seven of the worst-affected countries, in terms of number of people affected, are in Asia.

The report identified five reasons for which affected people may not receive required assistance. "The humanitarian sector cannot help people if it fails to see them," says the report.

"Some communities are hard to reach for geographical or political reasons, because of conflict and insecurity, or bureaucratic and legal bottlenecks created by affected states and donors alike. These can all pose serious challenges to humanitarian access," it mentions.

The IFRC's 2019 operational plan for Bangladesh sets a budget of $5.5 million to reach 3.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, through Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, said the organisations.

Azmat Ullah, head of IFRC Bangladesh Country Office, said if the vulnerable and under-supported groups discussed in the report are to be identified, reached, understood and supported, the international humanitarian sector must invest in local and national actors like BDRCs.

Role of local humanitarian agencies stressed

STAFF REPORTER, Dhaka

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According to Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCs) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), local humanitarian agencies are crucial for ensuring no one in need is left behind, says a press release.

The World Disasters Report titled "Leaving NO-ONE behind: The international humanitarian sector must do more to respond to the needs of the world's most vulnerable people" shows that a lack of money is not the only issue limiting how many people in need are identified, reached, and supported. It argues that even if all humanitarian appeals were fully funded, many people would still be left behind because of the choices made by donors, humanitarian actors, and the governments of affected States.
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